

SAARC Conference on Child Labour

985. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
 SHRI CHITTA BASU :
 SHRI PRASASRAM BHARDWAJ :
 SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Conference of SAARC countries held in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, have resolved to eliminate the child labour by 2000 from the region and launch a comprehensive nutrition drive in South Asia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether at the recent ministerial conference on "Child" of South Asia, SAARC nations also recommended that 2001 to 2010 be declared as SAARC decade on the rights of the child;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the assistance provided by India being a Member of SAARC; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken to eliminate the child labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The Third SAARC Ministerial Conference on children of South Asia held in Rawalpindi, Pakistan from 20-22 August, 1996 resolved that by year 2000 child labour working in hazardous occupations should be eliminated and that severe and moderate malnutrition among under-five children reduced at least by half of 1990 level.

(c) and (d). The SAARC Ministerial Conference on children of South Asia has recommended that the years 2001-2010 be declared as "The SAARC Decade of the Rights of the Child".

(e) India's contribution to SAARC Secretariat Budget, which is based on calendar year and is paid in US Dollars, follows :

1995	-	US \$ 2,49,523.19
1996	-	US \$ 2,95,798.20

(f) Government has taken a number of steps for the rehabilitation of child labour. As part of the National Policy on Child Labour announced in 1987 project based action plan has been initiated in the areas of high concentration of child labour engaged in wage/quasi-wage employment. A major programme was announced in August, 1994 to rehabilitate child labour working in hazardous occupations. As a follow up of the programme, Government is presently engaged in the task of rehabilitation of about 2 million children, working in hazardous occupations, by the year 2002. During 1995-96, 76 Child labour projects were sanctioned for rehabilitation of around 1.5 lakh children working in hazardous occupations in 11 child labour endemic states where they are provided basic needs like non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health-care and stipends.

[Translation]

Chatra-Hazaribagh-Ranchi Railway Line

986. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which survey had been conducted on Chatra-Hazaribagh and Ranchi railway lines;

(b) the total amount spent on the survey; and

(c) the time by which construction work is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No Survey has been conducted on Chatra-Hazaribagh line so far. For Hazaribagh-Ranchi, the updating survey has been taken up and the report is expected by end of Jan'97.

(b) Rs 7.25 lakhs

(c) Further consideration regarding taking up of the project, in consultation with the Planning Commission would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Late Running of Trains

987. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn towards the increasing incidents of late running of trains during the last three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The punctuality of trains has improved to 90.2% in August, 90.6% in September and 91.0% in October 1996 as compared to 85.9% in August, 85.9% in September and 85.3% in October, 1995.

(c) All efforts including intensive chasing and daily monitoring at different levels are being undertaken regularly. In addition, punctuality drives both at Inspectorial and Officers' level are also being launched.

Railway Lines

988. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to lay Railway lines in the Hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh to link various religious places;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey in this regard has been conducted by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the work is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The details of the surveys which have been taken up in the Hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh to link various religious places are as under :-

- (i) Rishikesh-Dehradun (30 Kms.)
- (ii) Haridwar-Ramnagar via Kotdwar (125 Kms.)
- (iii) Muzaffarnagar-Haridwar Via Roorkee (95 Kms.)
- (vi) Rishikesh-Karanparyag (185 Kms.)
- (v) Chandigarh-Dehradun Via Paonta Sahib (220 Kms.)
- (vi) Kiccha-Sitargajn-Nanakmata-Khatema (55 Kms.)
- (vii) Tanakpur-Purnagiri (15 Kms.)

(e) Further consideration of the projects would be possible once the survey reports become available.

[English]

Bongaon-Petrapole Railway Line

989. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since decided to construct the Bongaon-Petrapole Railway Line in the Sealdah-Bongaon Section of the Eastern Railway.

(b) if so, the specific steps taken in that direction.

(c) whether the Government have already taken up the matter of linking up Petrapole with Benapole with the Government of Bangladesh to establish direct Railway link between the two countries. and

(d) if so, the response of Bangladesh thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). A preliminary Engg.-cum-Traffic Survey for restoration of Bongaon-Petrapole has been taken up by the Railways.

The issue has also been taken up with Govt. of Bangladesh but no clearcut response has been received.

[Translation]

Criteria Adopted for Organising Light and Sound Shows

990. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted by the India Tourism Development Corporation for organising 'Light and Sound Shows' at ancient historical monuments;

(b) the expenditure incurred in organising the shows during each of the last three years; and

(c) the number of such monuments selected in Uttar Pradesh alongwith the details of income and expenditure incurred in organising such shows?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) Presently ITDC is operating there Son-et-Lumiere (SEL) Shows at Red Fort, New Delhi, Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad, Shalimar Garden, Srinagar. All these shows were mounted by the Department of Tourism, Govt. of India. The SEL Show at Red Fort Delhi was subsequently purchased by ITDC from Department of Tourism. The other two shows at Ahmedabad & Srinagar are being operated by ITDC on behalf of the Department of Tourism. ITDC has not formulated any guidelines for organising Light & Sound Show at ancient historical monuments. Nevertheless the Deptt. of Tourism extends financial assistance to State Govts. to set up SEL shows, under the guidelines of the scheme.

(b) The details of the expenditure incurred by ITDC during last three years on organising the aforesaid shows being operated by it are given below :

S.No.	Name/Place of Sound & Light Show	Expenditure in Rs. Lakhs		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Red Fort, Delhi	13.34	19.02	17.37
2.	Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad	4.26	5.64	5.31
3.	Shalimar Garden, Srinagar	2.59*	3.01*	4.10*

*Not in operation. Expenditure relates to maintenance only.

(c) ITDC is not organising/operating any Sound & Light Show in Uttar Pradesh. The question of income and expenditure therefore does not arise.

[English]

Airways Network

991. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the airways network for the North-East sector, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). The Government have constituted a Committee comprising one member of Parliament from each of the 7 States in North East and Sikkim, representatives of private airlines, Indian Airlines, Alliance Air, Chairman, Airports Authority of India and Director General of Civil Aviation as convenor